

# Letter from Midshipman

Chuck Bongard, a June graduate of Bishop Montgomery High School, last summer realized a life-long ambition of obtaining an appointment to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. A youngster who typifies the "bright" side of youth today, Bongard has forwarded to us a copy of a letter telling of his experiences with the Navy.

13 January 1968

Dear Amigos,

This epistle is the first of a series covering my experience as a Midshipman and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking my parents, teachers, coaches and many friends who have contributed to my well being and are thereby partially responsible for my acceptance at the Naval Academy.

When I first arrived here there was so much to learn that the only time I missed my family and friends was when I finally climbed into the sack at night. We

learned how to march, clean and scrub down our rooms, polish our shoes and stow our gear properly. After four years I'll be the best housekeeper in the world! I don't believe I ever had so many new clothes at one time in my life: 4 pairs of shoes (2 black dress, 1 black work, 1 white dress), 1 pair tennis shoes, 1 pair galoshes, 1 pair slippers, 1 pair shower shoes, 2 pairs blue heavy work clothes, 10 sets white work clothes, 6 pairs white dress socks, 12 pairs black dress socks, 6 pairs sweat socks, 18 pairs underwear and many other items. After Plebe summer we were issued all of our regular Navy dress uniforms and service dress, plus overcoat, reefer, etc.



CHUCK BONGARD

While learning the Navy way, what gave me the most trouble was learning to MARCH. . . They finally delegated me to a Marine lieutenant who was our drill overseer. He stood about 5' 6", and I had him laughing for all of 45 minutes because I couldn't keep in step, but after a few days with him I finally got the hang of it. During this time we also learned how to use a rifle and a pistol. The rifle was a little more difficult for me, but I did qualify as "expert" in pistol, so I sport an extra ribbon on my blouse.

I also played baseball during the summer, and played first string second base and ended up batting .425.

In August, my mother, Joan and Richard came back to visit me during parent's weekend, and believe me, I was really glad to see them.

When the rest of the Brigade came back in September, my life as a Plebe really became hectic. The Upperclass put us through a program in which they disassemble the "civilian us" and then reconstruct the new "Military us."

As a Plebe we are required to know certain rates such as the Officer's of the Watch, the menus for two meals in advance, the movies in town, the number of days until Army Game, Christmas leave, Second Class Ring Dance, and First Class Graduation, plus our Reef Points, which is a small book of Naval facts and traditions. We are also required to brace up at meals (sit at attention on the outer three inches of our chair with our eyes looking straight ahead), chop through Bancroft Hall (run that is) and address all upperclass as "Sir."

I have been doing pretty well in studies and sports. The caliber of my professors is extremely high and the population of each class subject is very low which results in a superb educational opportunity. I am taking Calculus, Chemistry, English, Portuguese, and Psychology, plus swimming and other electives connected with Naval Science. I finished the fall term with a 3.60 grade point average, and hope to finish the semester with 4.0.

In football the Plebe team finished the season with a 7-1 record, and I started at flanker for them. I finished the season with 18 catches and 385 yards and four touchdowns. The coaches seem to think that I have a good chance of making the "Big Blue Team" next year. I was injured during the season, so did not play much the last four games. I have an overextended muscle behind the knee, which I hope will respond to treatment before spring training.

The scenery here at the Academy is beautiful. I've never really imagined how beautiful the change in seasons could be, and the fall here was the prettiest I've ever seen.

Everything at the Academy is geared toward Army Week. It was the biggest thrill of my life to march into the stadium before 90,000 cheering fans, and of course to beat Army was the greatest. After the game we met the Army Cadets on the field and exchanged cuff links. There is a certain comradeship in spite of the rivalry, and we were asked to some of their parties and they in turn came to ours. The Army took over the Ben Franklin Hotel and the Navy the Penn Sheraton. It was the wildest night of my life, and I'm afraid this boy "Belly's up to the Bar" a little more often than he should have. Everyone takes care of each other so we all made it to the buses on time. I certainly hope that next year I will be playing on the field instead of watching!

All of this time I was looking forward to Christmas leave, and coming home. I was home for a very short two weeks and enjoyed being with family and friends again.

Summarizing my first six-month tenure as a Plebe who has just returned from his Christmas vacation, I had mixed emotions since I hated to again leave my California home but likewise was glad to be back at Annapolis with my Brigade.

Sincerely,  
Midshipman Charles R. Bongard 1971

# El Camino Absorbs Fifth Straight Loss

The basketball team at El Camino College dropped its fifth straight Metropolitan Conference game last night. Coach George Stanich's Warriors were beaten by Long Beach, 131-95, in the winner's gym.

Last week's conference winners were led by Valley's 83-64 conquest of Bakersfield and Long Beach's 89-97 decision over Cerritos. On Tuesday Cerritos whipped Rio Hondo, 93-74; Santa Monica socked Long Beach, 83-75; East L.A. edged El Camino, 80-77; and Valley topped Bakersfield, 83-64.

Friday's scores were Valley over East L.A., 84-63; Santa Monica took El Camino, 94-81; Bakersfield nipped Rio Hondo, 83-79, in overtime; and Long Beach outscored Cerritos, 89-87.

Long Beach and Cerritos staged a desperate struggle that was resolved with 20 seconds to go. Rick Wilson of Long Beach sank a lay-up to give the Vikings an 88-87 lead. A Cerritos scoring attempt failed with nine seconds to go and afterward Long Beach collected a free throw to sew up the game.

Scoring leader in the contest was Long Beach's Gary Zeller with 34.

Valley's Al Shumate pumped in 24 points to pace the Monarchs over Bakersfield. Another bag man in the Valley attack was Rich Reid with 23.

Top scorer in the Metropolitan Conference for the week was Santa Monica's Sidney Wicks. He connected for 23 against Long Beach, and then scored 34 against El Camino to take the conference scoring lead with 109 points.

# Andretti To Drive Fastback

Ford rounded out its factory team of drivers for Sunday's 6th Annual Motor Trend/Riverside 500 by naming Mario Andretti, Lee Roy Yarborough and Bobby Allison to pilot three 1968 fastback Torinos in the 185-lap grind. This brings to eight the number of new Fords making their competition debut over Riverside Raceway's 2.7-mile road course as part of a factory-supported effort to continue a five-year win streak in the rich classic.

Andretti, a two-time USAC national driving champion and current record holder at Indianapolis, will be making his third bid to win the 500. His Ford is being prepared by Jack Rowser, well-known USAC driver and car owner.

Yarborough (not to be confused with Cale Yarborough who also is part of the Ford team) competed at Riverside for the first time last January and provided much of the excitement in the early stages when he charged from behind only to fall victim of a spectacular flip, brought on by a rain-slickened track.

The popular South Carolina driver will drive for Junior Johnson who, until his retirement two years ago, thrilled Riverside fans with his colorful driving. Johnson now operates a racing stable with factory support.

Allison, of Hueytown, Ala., enjoyed one of his finest seasons in Grand National competition last year and is off to a fine start for 1968. He currently leads the point standings for the coveted GN championship following his victory in the season's opening race several weeks ago. He replaces the recently retired Dick Hutcherson in car owner Bondy Long's Ford.

Practice for Sunday's \$86,000 '500' got under way at Riverside yesterday and will continue through Wednesday. Three days of qualifying determined the 44 starting spots will begin Thursday.

# Indoor Meet Scheduled At Arena

World records are threatened in several events when the finest field in the nine-year history of the Los Angeles Invitational indoor meet tangles Friday night at the Los Angeles Sports Arena.

The record possibilities are enhanced by the presence of the world's first indoor tartan track. The tartan surfacing is reported to be the world's finest and fastest.

Charlie Greene, Jim Hines and Bill Gaines will take aim at the world 60-yard dash record of 5.9 they share. Greene set his mark in the L.A. Invitational two years ago. He and Hines are the most prominent claimants for the title of "world's fastest human."

Tommie Smith will be after his own 440 mark of 46.2. Smith may have to hustle that fast to hold off Vince Matthews (45.0 for 400 meters outdoors) and Jim Kemp. Preston Davis thinks Peter Snell's world mark of 2:06.0 is sure to go soon. He and Villanova's Dave Patrick, the man who whipped Jim Ryun in world record indoor time of 1:48.9 for the 880 last year, are the favorites.

# Press-Herald SPORTS

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# TORRANCE AMERICAN ADDS SENIOR TEAMS

A Senior Division for 13, 14 and 15 year old boys in the Torrance American Little League has been organized for the 1968 youth baseball season.

Gene Genova, league president, announced that registration of players will be the next two Saturdays at the Little League field, Doris Way and Sharynne Lane.

Genova said a regulation size ball diamond will be constructed on Edison Company property near Crenshaw Blvd. and Lomita Blvd. A baseball complex is planned for the site.

The number of teams in Senior Division that the league will serve depends on registration, but tentatively four to six teams are planned.

John Conway is vice president in charge of Senior Division.

The league will be financed as a combined operation of Torrance American Little League. A building fund of \$15 is solicited from each family in the league.

The Little League 8-12 year old boys will register Feb. 10 and 17 at the Seaside field. The Little League diamonds have been completely renovated, it was reported.

# PCLL Has Sign Ups For Seniors

The Pacific Coast Little League will hold sign-ups and tryouts for Senior Division Baseball Saturday, starting at 10 a.m.

Boys 13, 14 and 15 years old are eligible to play. Those living in the Waverly, Victoria Knolls, and Ellinwood areas belong to the Pacific Coast League district. This area is bounded by Lomita Blvd. on the north, Lomita city limit on the east, Torrance city limit on the south and Nancy Lee Lane on the west.

Sign-ups will be at the baseball field located on the Airport property at the end of 247th Street.

New boys will need verification of birth date. A donation of \$15 (per family) entitles each player to a Pacific Coast Senior League jacket and helps defray the costs of running the program.

Boys returning to the league are asked for a \$10 donation.

The Pacific Coast League points out that every Senior League ballplayer plays in every regularly scheduled game.

"He plays regardless of comparative skill," league president Tom Cain said.

In case of rain the sign up will be held Saturday, Jan. 27.

The sign ups for the regular Little League will be held Feb. 3 and 10 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Walther Park. Boys between 8 and 12 years are urged to sign up.

Cain can be reached by phone at 325-2527. Vice president is Warren Johnson, 378-1531.

# National LL To Register

Torrance National Little League will sign up youngsters for the 1968 baseball season today and tomorrow from 1 to 9 p.m. at Torrance Elementary School, 2121 Lincoln St.

Each boy must be accompanied by a parent and have his birth certificate.

Boys born between Aug. 1, 1955, and July 31, 1960, will be assigned to major and minor league teams.

# ERRATIC SHOOTING EXPLAINED

Most coaches don't tolerate alibis from their players.

But Dennis Butcher of the Pistons understood when Eddie Miles explained his erratic shooting during a game recently against Baltimore.

Although Miles delivered the deciding free throw with nine seconds left, he made only nine of 21 shots from the field—well below his 48.8 per cent shooting mark for the season—and he muffed two free tosses before delivering the winner.

"You see, coach," said Miles after the Pistons flew home to prepare for Friday night's game with Cincinnati at Cobo Avenue. "I lost my right contact somewhere along the line."

"I guess I didn't realize it, but I'm sure that without the contact in there, my shooting had to suffer. My right eye is the weaker of the two, he said.

# Pony-Colt Signups Combined

Sign-ups for North Torrance Pony-Colt League will be Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the southeast corner of 190th St. and Van Ness, site of the new baseball complex.

Boys between the ages of 13 and 16 who reside in the North Torrance area are eligible to play. A birth certificate and registration fee are required.

Men interested in managing either a Pony or Colt team are urged to contact league president Ralph Manahan at 323-3952 or Bill Mock, 371-8704.

# El Camino To Wrestle

Metropolitan Conference wrestling, traditionally the toughest in the nation on a junior college level, gets underway Friday night when Bakersfield invades El Camino in the only conference match scheduled for the week.

**JOHNNIE PARSONS**  
FORMER INDY CHAMPION  
IS DIRECTOR OF RACING AT THE FORUM...

**MIDGETS ARE RUNNING IN THE FORUM**  
STARTING JAN. 25, THE ONLY INDOOR AUTO RACING IN THE WEST.

THESE MIDGETS RACE ON A 1/8 MILE FLAT CEMENT TRACK, CREATING A REVOLVING SQUIRREL CAGE ACTION... AS PARSONS CALLS IT—A MECHANICAL RODEO...!!

LAY OFF TH' SPURS, COWBOY!

There will be 14 indoor midget racing programs over a four-month span... Sanctioned by N.M.R.A...

# Compton Record Is 17-0

Compton's Tarabes ran their record to 17-0 with a decisive victory over Long Beach Jordan last week to maintain a strong first-place lead in the CIF basketball polls.

San Gabriel, by virtue of two lopsided victories, stretched its advantage in the "AA," "A" "Top Ten."

North Torrance kept pace with the Tarabes on the "AAA" level, streaking to a pair of victories to run its record to 16-2. Both losses were against Compton.

Huntington Beach avenged two early-season losses to crosstown rival Marina by knocking off the Vikings in the Sunset League inaugural last Tuesday and moved up to third place in the "AAA" voting by virtue of the win. Marina slipped to fifth after the 60-48 defeat.

Corona del Mar's Sea Kings, winners of the Covina Holiday Tournament, nailed down fourth spot, sandwiched between Huntington Beach and Marina. Long Beach Millikan (15-2) maintained a strong hold on sixth place, with Arcadia, Aviation, Ventura and Glenn rounding out the "Top Ten." Glenn took Covina's place after the Colts fell to Northview in a Montview League test.

On the "AA," "A" level, San Gabriel's main opposition came from North High of Riverside, which has lost only one match in 17 outings.

San Luis Obispo, equalling North's 16-1 slate, took the third spot. Fourth place Bishop Montgomery has a 16-3 record.

Verbum Dei took a large leap, from ninth to fifth, after decisive wins in a pair of outings last week. Villa Park's Spartans (10-3) were sixth, followed by Bishop Amat, Hemet, a newcomer to the "Top Ten"; Cabrillo and Troy.

Troy's Warriors are the only undefeated team listed among the "AA," "A" elite, having won 12 straight matches. Rosemead, which fell to San Gabriel in the first Sierra League meeting of the season, dropped from the "Top Ten" after having been tabbed seventh last week.

# Lynn Scores Figure 8 Win

Dick Lynn of Torrance and Don "Crash" Crager of Gardena head a 100-car field in Sunday afternoon's triple-threat PRA Figure 8 stock car racing and "Destruction Derby" program at Garden's Ascot Park.

Lynn, the "wild man" of local Figure 8 racing, scored at surprise win in last Sunday afternoon's criss-cross yard.

# PREP BASKETBALL

# Fermin Lasuen Faces Knights

Two key basketball games are on tap Friday when the bulk of the high school schedule resumes. Bishop Montgomery (2-0) and Fermin Lasuen (2-0) meet in San Pedro to determine first place in the Camino Real League.

The Sky League's Morning-side (2-0) and Beverly Hills (2-0) also bump into each other at the Inglewood campus.

North, bolstered by a 2-0 record in the Bay League, plays at Mira Costa today and is away to Inglewood, Friday night.

Santa Monica can keep pace with the Saxons with victories today against Hawthorne and Friday night at South. The South quint has a bye today.

An apparent "uncontested" race is in the Pioneer League in which Aviation has blossomed as "invincible." The Falcons play Lennox Friday night.

The Pioneer League's battle for second place involves two games this weekend—Palos Verdes at West and El Segundo at Lawndale. Each has a 1-1 record.

FERMIN LASUEN has become one of the most improved teams since the Christmas vacation break and is primed for Friday's game against rival Montgomery. The

Padres have beaten St. Monica's and Crespi while Montgomery has turned back Crespi and St. Bernard's.

While North and Santa Monica are momentarily on top of the Bay League, Redondo and South loom as the only other serious contenders.

Redondo's schedule for the week is against Inglewood today and Hawthorne Friday night. South has a bye today.

While Beverly Hills and Morningside restrain each other Friday, Torrance (0-2) will meet Rolling Hills (0-2) in a basement bargain.

The Tartars, which had an inspiring series in the Compton Tournament, were beaten by Culver City and Beverly Hills in league play.

West High walloped Lennox, but was upset by El Segundo.

Bay League

Team	W	L	PF	PA
North	2	0	129	85
Santa Monica	1	0	70	65
South	1	1	144	120
Redondo	1	1	121	101
Mira Costa	1	1	131	127
Hawthorne	0	1	45	73
Inglewood	0	2	106	166

Friday's Results

North 73, Hawthorne 45.

Redondo 71, South 45.

Mira Costa 66, Inglewood 57.

Games Today

North at Mira Costa.

Inglewood at Redondo.

Hawthorne at Mira Costa.

Hawthorne at Santa Monica.

Redondo at Hawthorne.

Santa Monica at South.

North at Inglewood.

Camino Real

Team	W	L	PF	PA
Fermin Lasuen	2	0	126	85
Montgomery	2	0	115	96
St. Bernard	1	1	120	106
Murphy	1	1	79	94
Crespi	1	1	79	109
St. Monica	0	2	85	106

Friday's Results

Montgomery 64, St. Bernard's 50.

Aviation 73, Palos Verdes 55.

Lasuen 55, Crespi 33.

Games Friday

St. Bernard at Santa Monica.

Crespi at Murphy.

Montgomery at Lasuen.

Pioneer League

Team	W	L	PF	PA
Aviation	1	0	164	112
Lennox	1	1	145	157
West	1	1	159	113
Palos Verdes	1	1	115	123
El Segundo	1	1	98	111
Lawndale	0	2	106	171

Friday's Results

El Segundo 53, West 52.

Lennox 55, Lawndale 50.

Aviation 73, Palos Verdes 56.

Games Friday

St. Bernard at Santa Monica.

Crespi at Murphy.

Montgomery at Lasuen.

West Loses To Culver

Don Williamson shot a field goal with a minute to play to give Culver City a 69-68 non-league basketball win over West High yesterday afternoon.

The Warriors missed two last minute shots, including Carl Moberly's attempt with one second to go.

Trailing 22-0 at the end of the first quarter, West came back to take the lead at 59-58 with four minutes to go.

Sky League

Team	W	L	PF	PA
Beverly Hills	2	0	156	117
Morningside	2	0	168	142
Culver City	1	1	129	133
Leuzinger	1	1	139	134
Torrance	1	1	112	122
Rolling Hills	0	2	119	150

Friday's Results

Beverly Hills 55, Torrance 50.

Culver City 71, Morningside 65.

Leuzinger 52, Rolling Hills 52.

Aviation at Lennox.

Beverly Hills at Morningside.

Torrance at Rolling Hills.

Culver City at Leuzinger.

Metropolitan

Team	W	L	PF	PA
Valley	4	0	327	274
Cerritos	3	1	352	297
Santa Monica	3	1	339	326
Bakersfield	3	1	339	326
Long Beach	2	2	337	334
East L.A.	2	2	365	325
El Camino	0	4	312	250
Rio Hondo	0	4	295	351